



This project is funded by the European Union

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Partners:

- Ministry of Finance and Treasury of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Public Company Motorways of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (JP Autoceste FBiH)

Estimated total investment:

- €83.9 million

EU contribution through WBIF:

- €19.0 million

EIB loan:

- €50.0 million

Beneficiary contribution:

- €14.9 million

2017 CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Mediterranean Corridor: Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia Vc Road Interconnection, Ponirak – Vraca/Zenica Tunnel Subsection

The Mediterranean Corridor links the Iberian Peninsula with the Hungarian – Ukrainian border. Its extension into the Western Balkans, mostly associated with what is regionally known as Corridor Vc, connects Hungary and eastern Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Adriatic Sea.

The longest section of Corridor Vc lies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In response to high daily average traffic volumes, the country has embarked on a multi-billion motorway construction programme, in cooperation with its neighbours. To date, 176 km have been built or are under construction.

This investment project concerns the construction of a 2.8 km motorway subsection on the Nemila – Zenica sjever (north) / Donja Gračanica section, between Ponirak and Vraca (exit of Zenica Tunnel), along Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The new development includes the 2.4 km Zenica Tunnel, a 0.1 km viaduct, and ancillary structures.



Existing two-lane road along Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Results:

- 2.8 km motorway, including twin tunnel, viaduct, and ancillary structures.
- Increase in travel speed from 60 km/h to 120 km/h.



Newly built motorway on the Tarčin – Sarajevo – Zenica section on the Mediterranean Corridor (Vc) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Previous EU contribution for the Nemila – Zenica sjever (north) / Donja Gračanica section:

- €1.8 million for detailed design (IPA 2011)

Start date:

- October 2019

Estimated end date:

- April 2022

Transport



Map of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia Vc Road Interconnection, Ponirak – Vraca Subsection.

The route of this motorway subsection is connected to the section Vranduk – Ponirak in the north and the subsection Vraca (Zenica Tunnel) – Donja Gračanica in the south.

The project is now at construction stage, with feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies completed in 2006, and subsequently updated in 2014. The environmental permit was obtained in February 2014 and then renewed in September 2019.

The detailed design was completed in 2017 and the loan agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB) was signed in 2018.

Detailed environmental impact mitigation measures have been planned for during and post-construction, including soil and water pollution prevention and noise monitoring programmes.

The project complements the newly built motorway on the Zenica South – Sarajevo South – Tarčin section along the Mediterranean Corridor (Vc) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Once completed, this section will be operated and maintained by the Public Company Motorways of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina through a closed toll collection system. A health and safety system will also be put in place, according to best European practices.

Benefits

- More than 400 jobs created during construction as well as operation and maintenance periods.
- An increase in annual traffic by more than 23%, matched by adequate safety and security conditions.
- Reduction by 7% in accident rate and 6% in vehicle operating costs.
- Better access for smaller towns and villages located along the route to industrial and transport hubs, such as Zenica and Sarajevo.
- Better routes to tourist areas in and around Vranduk and Žepče.
- Improved trade flows with countries in the region and thus a positive impact on the broader economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.